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# April Showers . . .



## It's April in Mississippi.

It rains. A lot. It feels like it is raining more often than it is not. An umbrella is handy, but not if there is a wind to go with the rain. Then undoubtedly your feet and your pants legs will get wet. And an umbrella does not protect against a puddle. Rain is not good for antennas either.

Rain can shift the frequency as a result of an increase in dielectric loading of the antenna. So when it rains, the antenna becomes electrically longer. This explains why the resonant frequency and SWR frequency of a wet antenna typically drops. Because RF flows over the surface of a conductor and not

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There is also the matter of a storm with the dreaded lightning strike, so best to unplug our expensive electronic equipment. So when it rains and ham radio is seemingly an after thought, let's think outside of the box.

How about an indoor antenna? How about a receive only antenna? There may not be any DX grabbing this afternoon but we can certainly just listen in on the other side of the world where there may be a lot of activity.

Shoot! Let's go on a rainy adventure, put on the mud boots, get out the four wheeler, find a dry spot and make some contacts after slinging some significant mud.

Even if you are not from Mississippi everyone could use a little mud between their toes now and then. And hey, just stand out in the rain long enough and the mud will go away.

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### *The Inside Loop Tuner*

MFJ has several little Loop Tuners for you to experiment with inside the dry shack, home or garage, or even under a pavilion at a park.

Turn any wire loop into a small, high efficiency multi-band transmitting loop antenna. Use wire, coax. Drape a wire around a bookcase or window and attach both ends to this MFJ small loop tuner. It can operate 5.3 to 30 MHz with a full 150 Watts. No ground, radials or counterpoises needed.

The excellent performance of a high efficiency small loop antenna is legendary and well proven by users all over the world. You will radiate a low angle DX signal that literally rivals full size dipoles and works incredible DX! It's a very quiet receiving antenna as well. You will hardly notice static crashes, its Hi-Q reduces QRM, overloading and harmonics.

It's perfect for apartments, antenna restricted areas and portable operation. It really gets out!



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### *Inside Antennas*

MFJ has some antennas that will connect directly to your QRP rigs, Elecraft, etc. with a BNC connector. The Multi-banded [MFJ-1899T](#) lets you operate 80-6 Meters inside the shack where it is nice and dry. Just retap the wander-lead to change bands. MFJ also has [single banders](#) 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 and 6-Meters! And certainly they are portable!

A 13 foot wire formed into a loop operates 30-20 Meters, 4 foot for 17-10 Meters, 7 foot for 20-15 Meters, 28 foot for 60-40 Meters. Tune any shape loop -- circle, square, rectangle, etc. A 1/4 wavelength wire shaped as a circle is the most efficient. A given wire length covers about 1.5 to 1 frequency range. Exact frequency coverage depends upon wire length, loop shape, surroundings and height above ground.

MFJ's low-loss Butterfly loop tuning capacitors have no rotating contacts. Loop tuners have easy-carry handle, mounts for PVC cross (see MFJ-57B, MFJ-58B loop kits).

[MFJ-936C](#) has relative RF antenna current meter with sensitivity and 30/300 Watt selectable ranges, Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter.

[MFJ-935C](#) has relative RF Current meter with sensitivity contro. No SWR/Wattmeter.

[MFJ-933C](#) has no meters.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[MFJ-9222](#) is a QRP Loop Tuner

Covers 40-10 Meters with included flexible wire loop. 25 Watts. BNC.

***Build Your Own!***

[MFJ-19](#). 12-67 pF Butterfly cap.

[MFJ-23](#). 18-136 pF Butterfly cap.



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MudBuggin Mobile! Take an [MFJ-1898](#) Multi-Band vertical, an [MFJ-342T](#) mount and an [MFJ-1934](#) ground rod and shove it into the wet ground. Get 60/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 and 6-Meters out of your backpack! It's just as good when it is dry out! Handles 125 Watts PEP SSB.

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